

- (a) whether coffee exports are proposed to be brought under open General Licence Schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken to keep the price at reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Coffee is a freely exportable commodity subject to the provisions of the Coffee Act, 1942, which stipulates that no coffee can be exported from India without the authorisation granted by the Coffee Board. The export price realised is a function of international demand and supply. Presently, the international prices are quite remunerative for exporters and growers.

[Translation]

Export of Sugar

2707. PROF. PREM SINGH CHNDUMAJRA:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have fixed any target for export of sugar during 1996-97;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has not issued licences for the export of aforesaid fixed target of sugar;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the quantum of sugar for which export licences have been issued during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) A quantity of 2.50 lakh metric tonnes of free sale sugar out of 1996-97 season's production has been released by the Government for export against Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) to be issued by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for which a Trade Notice was issued by the APEDA on 17.2.97. A quantity of 94,342 Metric tonnes of sugar was allocated by the APEDA against applications received in response to this Trade Notice. Another Trade Notice was issued by the APEDA on 25.4.97 inviting applications for issue of RCAC's for the balance quantity of 1,55,658 metric tonnes. Against this, till 29.7.97, RCACs for export of 1,29,155.50 metric tonnes of sugar have been issued.

Pan Masala Producing Units

2708. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether units producing pan masala are involved in tax evasion; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The Government maintains a strict vigil to keep a check on tax evasion. Actions envisaged under the law are taken as and when any case of tax-evasion is detected.

Central Funds to States

2709. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated to North Eastern States during the current five year plan period and the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether the funds allocated to these States are less than funds allocated to other developed states in the country; and
- (c) whether the funds allocated to North Eastern Council is deducted from the funds of related States of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Planning Commission has indicated that the Central assistance to North Eastern States during the Ninth Plan has not yet been finalised.

- (b) No Sir, the per capita funds allocated to North-Eastern States during Eighth Plan were much more than the funds allocated to other developed States in the country. For the Ninth Plan period also, the Government lays great emphasis on the development of the North-Eastern Region.

- (c) No Sir, the funds allocated to the North Eastern Council are not deducted from the funds of related States of the region.

[English]

Irregularities in Dena Bank

2710. SHRI MOHAN REWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has conducted an investigation into alleged malpractices in the Thiruvananthapuram branch of the Dena Bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken against the officers of the bank found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Dena Bank has reported that it has received certain complaints from

customers and staff members about violation of rules and procedures of the bank by the officials of their Thiruvananthapuram branch. Based on the complaints and the findings of an inspection report of Reserve Bank of India, a special audit of the branch was ordered. The bank has further reported that disciplinary action against delinquent officials has been ordered by the competent authorities in the bank.

[*Translation*]

Public Grievances Commission

2711. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR:

KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted sanction to the decision of the Delhi Government to appoint a public Grievances Commission to redress the grievances of the people;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said Commission is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Resolution which is laid on the table of the House. The Resolution is to be notified by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) If is for the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to decide the date.

RESOLUTION

After a careful consideration of the need for providing a comprehensive mechanism for effective redressal of grievances of the public against the departments of Government of NCT of Delhi and local bodies, autonomous organisations/undertakings and other institutions owned or substantially financed by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the Government of NCT of Delhi with prior approval of the Central Government have decided to set up a "Public Grievances Commission" in the National Capital Territory of Delhi to act as a functionally independent body responsible for speedy redressal of complaints of the public against acts of omission or commission on the part of public officials working in the said organisations and to recommend such action as considered necessary for removal of such grievances. The Commission shall, for the present, be attached to the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of NCT of Delhi, but in the exercise of its powers and functions it will have the same measure of independence and autonomy as the Union Public Service

Commission. The functions of the Commission shall be advisory in the same sense as those of the Union Public Service Commission.

2. The Composition of the Commission, its power and functions and the broad framework in which it shall function will be as follows:

A. COMPOSITION

(i) The Commission shall consist of a Chairman and three Members (including two part-time Members) who shall be appointed by the Lt. Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(ii) The Chairman and the whole-time Member shall be persons who have, in the opinion of the Government of NCT of Delhi, distinguished themselves in the field of public administration. The two part-time Members shall be persons of public eminence having special knowledge or practical experience in the field of education or science or law or literature or social service or human rights. Of these two part-time members, at least one shall be a lady;

(iii) Save as otherwise provided, the Chairman and the members (including part-time members) shall ordinarily hold office for a term of 2 years or till they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

(iv) The Chairman may resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi and any other member including part-time Member may resign his office by giving notice in writing to the Chairman, and upon such resignation having been accepted by the Government of NCT of Delhi or, as the case may be, by the Chairman, the Chairman or the member (including the part-time Member) shall be deemed to have vacated his office;

(v) The Chairman shall be paid a consolidated salary of Rs. 8000/- provided further that if the Chairman at the time of his appointment is in receipt of pension (other than disability or war pension) in respect of any previous service under the Government of India or under the Government of a State, his salary, irrespective of his service in the Authority, shall be reduced by the amount of that pension. The whole time Member shall be paid, subject to the same conditions, a salary of Rs. 7500/- per month together with such allowance as admissible from time to time. The two part-time Members shall be paid a fixed fee of Rs. 7500/- per month. The other terms and conditions of service of the Chairman and Members (including part-time Members) shall be such as are applicable to the officers of comparable status in the Government of India.

(vi) A person shall be disqualified from being appointed as Chairman or Member (including part-time Member) if he (a) is not a citizen of India; or (b) is of unsound mind and has been so declared by the competent court; or (c) is adjudged as an undischarged insolvent; or